

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — June 25, 2003 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Ken Bechmann, Maureen McCoy, Julie Barnfather, Glenn Eades, Sue Chenault (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

ABSENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Kris Colt; Youth Advocate Emily Thompson

CITY STAFF: Linda Gorremans, Park Planner (substituting for Tim Cox)

AUDIENCE: None

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ken Bechmann called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of May 28, 2003 RTC minutes as submitted by:
Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Barnfather

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None present

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

None

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. PRO Plan

Linda Gorremans, Park Planner, presented the draft map of existing and proposed trails that will be included in the PRO Plan. She also showed the new King County regional trails map. Certain long trail corridors to the east were eliminated from the County map due to acquisition and funding problems that caused the County to scale back on their trails plan.

Staff is still looking at changing categories of Redmond trails, e.g., naming "collector trails" as those adjacent to roadways. Definitions and explanations of all the trail categories will be included in the PRO Plan. Redmond Town Center and SE Redmond are privately owned properties with trails and will be shown on the map. The City will maintain them because they are part of the City's trail system.

Gorremans stated it was a Parks Department decision to delay the PRO Plan update, since 2003 is the "off year" for IAC grants. They will instead finish the plan this summer or fall. The PRO Plan must be re-done every six years, so staff chose to aim for the next IAC grant deadline, which is June 2004.

B. Shoreline Master Program

Gorremans announced that the Planning Commission is now currently reviewing the Shoreline Master Program draft update, previously reviewed and proposed by the Citizen Advisory Committee. Gorremans had planned for a Planning Commission member to attend this RTC meeting to explain the program, however no one was available.

Parks staff has expressed concern regarding the restrictions that this program may impose on the Bear & Evans Creek Trail Greenway project. Buffers of 150 feet are required on certain areas of Bear Creek, i.e., areas north of Union Hill on Avondale Way. There would be restrictions prohibiting a trail along the creek in this location due to existing buildings. Gorremans mentioned this concern to the Planning Commission and recommended an exemption be allowed for any project whose master plan had been approved by City Council and was within the City's Comp Plan. The Planning Commission agreed to add language to this effect (as a grandfather clause). The Planning Department will consolidate the changes and make a list of why these

changes will occur in the Shoreline Master Program. This list will be available next week.

Gorremans noted that in the future, there could be a trail extending from Bear Creek, north of Novelty Hill Road, and connecting to the Juel property. She suggested it could be put on the proposed trails plan.

Motion for approval to consider adding a trail to the proposed trails plan on the eastside of Bear Creek, extending from Novelty Hill Road north to the Juel property by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Chenault

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

Parks staff will bring the map, revised proposed trails, to the next RTC meeting for a further review by Commissioners.

C. Derby Days 2003

Bechmann reported there would be a table/booth set up for the Park Board, RTC, and Arts Commission at the Derby Days event on July 12. Commissioners were asked to staff the booth. Park Board is having a park-naming contest for Coast Guard Park, however, no one will be there from the Park Board to staff.

After a show of hands, it was noted that four out of seven Trails Commissioners would be out of town and unavailable during the event. Chenault emphasized it was not a trail-oriented event; she was not supportive of staffing it. McCoy added that in the past the booth was set up next to the noisy amusement rides.

Commissioner consensus: There would not be enough people to commit by this meeting to support staffing the booth. Therefore, if Watershed Preserve and/or trails maps were available by Derby Days, Commissioners requested that staff stack them on the table next to the Park Board materials.

D. Bridle Crest Trail

Gorremans reported the Bridle Crest Trail survey returned showing six encroachments (fences on the trail) consisting of about 30 feet. Public Works and Parks still agreed to obtain the trail from King County and deal with the encroachments at a later date. The City attorney drafted a memo to City Council regarding the encroachments, and Council had no negative response to the memo.

Gorremans noted an adverse possession could not be done against a government entity. There are several encroachments throughout the City (e.g., "paper" streets), and the City needs a policy for dealing with such encroachments. The City property manager, Debbie Wilson, will put together a plan to deal with encroachments.

Staff emphasized that the Bridle Crest Trail is needed to complete the West Lake Sammamish Parkway; the encroachments do not affect the trail.

Gorremans was concerned with language in the transfer deed regarding replacing like property when any portion of the property would be sold again. The City needed to ascertain the restrictions with the acquisition. The Property Manager and City attorney stated that the funding source did not have a restriction, so the transfer deed was changed.

E. Trails Updates

1. East Lake Sammamish Trail

Gorremans referenced the handout showing the gate design that would go in the property fencing adjacent to the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The consecutive gate patterns would repeat. King County will be installing fencing and gates at East Lake Sammamish Waterfront Park. However, it would not be done this year due to the hearing examiner ruling that King County had not thoroughly investigated the proposal of routing the trail to the parkway. King County is appealing the examiner's decision. Since the examiner was brought in from the City of Snohomish by the City of Sammamish, the appeal must first be heard in Snohomish County, then in King County.

All permits for cities of Issaquah and Redmond have been secured for building the trail within the two cities. They could begin construction late summer/early fall. This means a short portion of the trail in Redmond could still be built this summer.

2. Evans Creek Trail

Gorremans reported a King County letter stated the stormwater proposal was acceptable for the Evans Creek Trail & Greenway (ECT)—a positive step toward the Shoreline permit.

However, it was decided in the state capital budget by the legislature that all IAC grant projects from 1999 or before must

spend their money by the end of 2003, or the funding would be reappropriated.

Gorremans wrote a letter to the governor, senators, and representatives, as well as Laura Eckhert of IAC to contend this decision. Gorremans has been in contact with Senator Bill Finkbeiner, who stated the funding restriction on the capital budget was added later. The governor is due to sign this mandate—Section 352, subsection 2 of the capital budget—on Friday, 6/27/03. The City asked him to veto it, as they would lose \$400,000 for the ECT should it be approved. Finkbeiner stated if Section 352 was not vetoed, he and senators from other jurisdictions would write and ask it be appropriated in the next year's supplemental budget for Redmond's and other agencies, specific projects. (King County's Soos Creek trail is nearly identical to the Evans Creek Trail project in the size, permit, and approval process.)

Gorremans noted that \$100,000 has already been spent on the consultant's design. The \$400,000 remaining of the grant would go toward construction. The fish window that must be adhered to from July 15 through October 15. This is when construction could only be done; in streams, stream buffers and wetlands, consequently, the project would not be done this year. Gorremans believed the state did not have all the facts of how this project should proceed with permits and restrictions, i.e., the endangered salmon, the red-tail hawk nest, etc.

The City could make another application to IAC, which would allow them to build in 2005. The City would have the permits by that time, and they would remain in effect for that length of time. The Public Agencies Utilities Exemption and Shoreline Permit from King County should be obtained by July or August. The City could build a portion of trail that is within the City, south of 95th Street before it goes through Perrigo Community Park (it cannot go into the park now because it is County). Staff will push for that to be done. Perhaps the trail could be built south of Perrigo Community Park on the railroad grade, since it is within the City limits. However, it would need to cross county property to get there, requiring special permission from them.

3. Missing Link

Gorremans e-mailed the County last week regarding the missing link between Farrel-McWhirter Park and the Redmond Watershed,

but she has not receive a response as yet. Last month, the County was re-writing portions of the umbrella/boilerplate language, and they are continuing to work on it. The County would maintain the link. It is currently owned by PSE.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner McCoy

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, July 30, 2003

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

7:00 p.m.